

## Guidelines for Portable Fire Extinguishers In Nursing Homes, Hospitals and Health Care Facilities

The various types of fire extinguishers are not all equally effective on all kinds of fires. In selecting an extinguisher, consideration shall be given to the class of fire which may occur, the activity in the area of probable use, and contents of the building.

Fires are defined into three basic types...A, B, and C. Fire extinguishers are labeled to indicate the type or types of fires they are suitable to extinguish.

1. Class A fires are ordinary combustible material, such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber, and many plastics.
2. Class B fires are fires of flammable liquids, gases, greases and anesthetics.
3. Class C fires are fires that involve energized electrical equipment, such as motors, electrical panels, etc.

### II. Sleeping Room Corridors

Patients\Residents who are experiencing breathing difficulties from heart disease, asthma and emphysema, or taking medications and sedatives that dull the senses and/or impede normal responses, should not be depleted of any more oxygen. Type ABC dry chemical extinguishers are not as effective in deep-seated mattress fires. Thus in patient/resident areas, sleeping room corridors, and lounges, a 2-A 2 1/2 gallon **pressurized water extinguisher** shall be placed.

### III. Nurses Stations (as applicable)

A Nurses Station contains various hazards including electrical and electronic equipment. Thus a 2-A-10BC class **dry chemical, multipurpose extinguisher** shall be placed at each nurses' station including I.C.U., C.C.U., Emergency and Recovery Suites. These extinguishers are effective on Class A and B fires as well.

### IV. Other Locations

A **4A40BC** fire extinguisher shall be installed in the following hazardous areas: laundry, furnace room and any other area having an unusual fire hazard.  
Provide a **40BC** in the kitchen.

## V. General

- a) Extinguishers shall be conspicuously located, installed, sized, and maintained according to NFPA 10.
- b) Extinguishers shall be located so that a person will not have to travel more than 75 feet from any point within the facility to reach an extinguisher, and within 25 feet on an exit in corridors.
- c) Extinguishers having a weight of less than 40 pounds shall be installed so that the handle of the extinguisher is not more than 5 feet above the floor. Extinguishers having a weight of more than 40 pounds shall be installed so that the top of the extinguisher is not over 3 1/2 feet above the floor. Clearance between the bottom of the extinguisher and the floor must be at least 4 inches.
- d) Extinguishers in cabinets or wall recesses or hung shall be placed in a manner such that the operating instructions face outward. The location of extinguishers shall be conspicuously marked to give easy legibility at a distance of 25 feet.
- e) Recessed cabinets for extinguishers shall be specified in accordance with NFPA-10. Locked or break-glass type cabinets are not acceptable. Fire extinguishers should be installed in recessed cabinets with the cabinet door closed only with a "catch" or "latch" mechanism.

## AUTOMATIC FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS FOR KITCHEN HOODS

All automatic fire extinguisher systems shall be installed by certified manufacturer and authorized contractors; each system shall be a (pre) engineered system. Maintenance of the system must be accomplished by a contractor certified by the manufacturer.

Kitchen hood extinguishing systems shall be installed and tested in accordance with NFPA 96 and NFPA 17 in compliance with UL300 . (Portable kitchen extinguishers are required to be 40 BC minimum). Activation of the system shall shut off all power to the oven, range, fryer, etc. under the hood and set the building fire alarm into alarm.

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